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Qualifications of the Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General.

*82 Q.—Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) what the special qualifications of Dr. Williams are for the post of Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General;

(b) what pay he was drawing before and what his pay now is;

(c) what his rank in the service list is;

(d) whether the claims of his seniors were overlooked by his promotion; and

(e) whether, as Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General, he comes into the selection list?

A.—(a) An experienced and senior medical officer of the standing of a civil surgeon is ordinarily appointed to the post of Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General and Mr. Williams satisfies these requirements.

(b) He was drawing Rs. 900 per mensem in his previous appointment. His pay as Personal Assistant is Rs. 900 plus 100 (special pay).

(c) Fifteenth in the list of civil surgeons of Madras Medical Service according to the Quarterly Civil Medical List corrected up to 31st March 1928.

(d) The post of Personal Assistant to the Surgeon-General is one of the posts included in the cadre of civil surgeons. The appointment of Mr. Williams to this post does not involve the supersession of any of his seniors.

(e) No.

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"Are there no men above Dr. Williams in the list, when the Government themselves admit that he is the fifteenth? Are all those people quite unfit to hold the position of Personal Assistant and why is it that Government have chosen a man occupying so low as the fifteenth rank?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"The hon. Member is not probably aware that this is not a question of preference over anybody. In the usual course of business, some civil surgeon had to be put in as Personal Assistant."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"Why not the 30th man then?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"If he is a civil surgeon and if the Government thought him a fit person, he would have been nominated."

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"Was there any special offer made to anybody else?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"What is the special offer?"

Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA:—"Was any other man selected for this job? Did any note go from the Surgeon-General to any other officer of the department?"

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR:—"I do not think any Member of this House is entitled to know the reasons for all appointments made."

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The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Whether any Member of this House is entitled to ask for any particular information from the Government is to be settled by the President and not by the Member of Government, and I hope the hon. Minister will kindly withdraw his statement."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I am only stating, Mr. President . . . (Cries of 'withdraw', 'obey the Chair', from the Opposition benches)."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Order, order. I have already requested the hon. Minister to withdraw the statement made by him."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I withdraw the statement, if the hon. the President thinks that I refused to give information. What I wanted to say was that it is confidential and therefore cannot be divulged."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" The hon. Minister could have said that."

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I meant that, Mr. President."

Itinerant work by rural medical practitioners.

* 83 *Q.*—Dr. B. S. MALLAYYA : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that recently the Surgeon-General has issued a circular to the effect that the rural medical practitioners appointed under the scheme of rural medical relief should do itinerant work by visiting the various villages once a week ;

(*b*) what the status of a rural medical practitioner under the scheme is ; and

(*c*) whether to enable the rural medical practitioner to do itinerant work in the villages, the Government are prepared to grant him conveyance charges, provide a suitable building in the village to be visited and allow him a servant ?

A.—(*a*) Yes ; but the application of the circular to rural medical practitioners has since been rescinded.

(*b*) He is a private practitioner receiving a subsidy from Government.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

Education

Free education for Adi-Dravidas in secondary schools.

* 84 *Q.*—Mr. A. B. SHETTY : Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government propose to give free education for the Adi-Dravidas in secondary schools ; and

(*b*) whether any form of vocational training is given in any of the Labour schools now existing ?

A.—(*a*) There is no proposal under the consideration of Government for the wholesale remission of fees for all Adi-Dravida pupils in secondary schools.

(*b*) The hon. Member is referred to the annual administration reports of the Labour Department which are placed on the Editors' Table.